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SUMMARY

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SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY AND PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIAL POLICY

By V. DIAS SANTOS,
F. PINTO COELHO,
Assistants at the National Institute
for Industrial Research,
Industrial Economy Study Division

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SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY AND PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIAL POLICY

By
V. DIAS SANTOS AND F. PINTO COELHO
ASSISTANTS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH,
INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY STUDY DIVISION.

SUMMARY

Generally speaking, the structural condition known as "in process of development" connotes very specific characteristics in the industrial structure included in such a context.

2. This communication is the result of a first attempt by the Industrial Economy Study Division of the National Institute for Industrial Research to establish with objective reality the present role played by small units in the industrial structure, and also the broad lines of a policy designed to encourage them to follow the dynamic rhythms appropriate to swift economic development. It presents a brief analysis of the typical size of industrial establishments in metropolitan Portugal, and notes, in conclusion, a clear predominance of the small unit (defined according to a statistical criterion) both by industrial sectors (C.I.T.I. classification) and by regions. In this connection an interesting factor is the existence of a larger number of small establishments in the most industrialised zones, as compared with the more backward regions, despite a clear relative predominance of small-scale industry in the latter.

3. This analysis draws attention to the regions where measures could be more fruitful, and also to a certain number of factors which could play a part in the elaboration of a development policy for small-scale industry, based on a general development policy.

4. Aspects of the reorganisation of small-scale industry already in existence have been specially emphasised, and the last part presents a line of action adopted in Portugal in a certain number of concrete cases of industrial modernisation. These latter, though not specifically directed within the framework of a policy for small-scale enterprises, offer experiences which can be profitable for working out such a policy.

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